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Letter to unknown bishop

Charles Pettit Mcllvaine

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Bp. M. C. Waine.
60 0227

Ans. Feb. 27 / 80

My dear my dear Bishop -

How cheering your letter
from Gambier - & W. Wharton the
same - He seems so delighted with
what you are doing & all your in-
fluence - all seems to be getting
right again - I am thankful for
all the arrangements - When will
you ordain W. Griffin? Now I suppose
I will a blank letter of order -
Oh! how delighted I shall be to see
the theological students & Professors, united
animated with zeal - prayer spirit.
It is the desire of my heart to see
a vigorous, energetic spirit of loving
and prayerful there - How much

of the education is in that. When I
lived there I used to have a meeting
of the students of the Sem. & those
professing religion in the college (few
there) at my house - for prayer & teaching.
It was a meeting which many re-
member now - as I do. I find to-
day ex. in heaven that used to be
there. Then I had to preach once a
Sunday - & sustain the week-night
lectures (there was no Rector). I do not
remember that I ever had any of the
resident clergymen to take my place -
I say had to - that is I felt a must
on account of the circumstances - all
the while I kept up a Professorship in
the Sem. - sometimes two ^{or} three Dr.
of course resigned - & sometimes one
in the college. But why do I muse
on with these things about myself
I am so glad of all you are & are
doing - You have rec^d. a letter from

Mr Giddard - And it surprises you - ?
I have always been afraid that a time
would come when his infirmities would
make trouble - I am glad it has come - My
dear energetic & earnest & good Man, the
most unselfish of creatures & entirely en-
gaged with divine efforts to do good -
had got up among several ladies of
Christ Ch. a desire to form a society and
as Mr Bedell talked with her & others about
for aid of needy clergy of the Diocese - last
week their Dorcas Society or some other
was meeting & there they talked the plan
over - There was some kind diversity of
mind whether it should general to Epis-
copalians with reference to parochial con-
nections or parochial - of Christ Ch. - I am
was for the former - others, the latter - but
all in very good spirit - They agreed to
have meeting this week of friends in-
terested in the object - there to decide
what it should be - & so organize - A very
considerable & hopeful feeling had got up -
Mr Pendleton, Mr Threlkeld, & others in

fluent ladies were much interested.
On Saturday, Ch. Paddock told me, Mr G-
had indicated to him that he was much
opposed that all this had gone on without
his being consulted - & opposed particularly
the idea of a general society. The truth is, the
ladies did not suppose that till they had
concluded whether it was to be general
or not, the time had arrived to consult
him as Rector of Christ Ch. When that
question was settled, if on the parish side
- then of course, act under him -
to a certain extent. The W. wanted
me to try to get things fixed to his
mind as to the Parish side feature -
This I soon settled - Maria gave up her
view - On Sunday morning I went to Ch.
expecting Mr G. would give out a notice
of a meeting to organize a parish society
on Tuesday - & I was desired to say something
to help it - I went to the vestry room -
Mr G. came in - Immediately I read
a message from Maria wishing to see
me in the Lecture Room. I went

I found her much troubled & I did
not wonder - She had written a very
proper notice to hand to Mr G. for him to
read to the congregation - She said to
him - "You will be glad to learn that
there is so much spirit awakened for
this object, that we have thought the
way is prepared to call a meeting to
organize. & then handed the notice
& said - "will you read this, if it suits
your views - She was going to add & will
you come & open the meeting & give us
your counsel - But before she could
say many words - he said he would
not give out the notice - complained
strongly of the slight shown to him -
said he wanted no money to go from
his people but what was directed to
the object by himself - that the Society
would interfere with the state of
mind he wanted to promote during
Levee - & would diminish his exertions

collection - I cannot go into all he
said to Harris - which considering who she is
& his proposed personal relations to me, was
pretty remarkable - The result was that he
said he wanted it all put off till after Lent
Harris said that would be too late - as the
congregation so soon after that begins to scatter
that if any thing is to get well underway
it must begin before - He said he would
answer for that - Harris from this con-
versation I returned to the vestry room - Ch.
Pendleton, I met knowing all this had just
said to him that I would speak to him
on the subject - that all was right be-
cause he expected me to speak about it -
But there was no time now for further
discussion as would ~~have~~ ~~been~~ called up-
for I must differ to Carle with his views
of his Rectorial relations - & I was not dis-
posed to go into worship after such a talk -
I therefore said nothing - He asked me
if I would take any part in the ser-
vice - I said no - I was going to sit
in my own pew - This evidently hit

him - but I said it just as I had
done several times before - only he saw
what was on my mind - because he
heard Harris whisper to me calling me
out - But as I was going round to
the front of the Church, I thought as
I had nothing to do there, I would go off
to Mr. Melby. Oh - I encourage them -
I did & talked for him -

The result is that the ladies feel that
an authority is claimed over them &
their needles & money which they have
not been used to - & some of them
have gone to him & quietly told him
so - But they will not raise a riot
- once - so they give up the whole
business - If he chooses to revive the
matter after Lent, they will wait for
him to come to them - Harris was the
most active - & all sympathize with
her - but she is never shown so much
as in such troubles - She says to her

friends - You cannot serve me in
any way so much as not to talk about
me or the trouble - Don't defend me -
Let me be perfectly quiet - I go on just
as usual in other things - In the
thing next now - Monday -

But all this just opens a page which
I have long expected he would force all
to read - of his peculiar inferiority - He
must make me his thing - & I have
always known that his exposure of at-
tachment & defence to me would
last just so long as I did not differ
from his personal plans or views -
The truth is - if his theory of his Redemptive
rights were carried out - no body would
have a right to say a word of religious
advice to any of his people but through
him, or to ask a dollar of any of them
without his permission - None of his people
could use any influence but by his leave -
Whomsoever he wishes in the Church would

be forbidden - all must be under
Ch. authority - He is a radical as
to all above him, such as Bp. & a
top-top high Churchman as to all below
him - What despts would we Bp.
be in his eyes - if we should claim
that no body should come into our
diocese to use influence or get money
without our permission & that our
the clergy should further no object
~~without~~ out of their own parishes
but with our leave -

I shall try to keep things peaceful
& profitable - But I fear that will
be difficult - As soon as we get into
conviction about the matter, I
must show him that I entirely
disapprove of the same - & then it will be
as all his past history shows, & as
Mr Whiston said when he came here
that a collier towards me will
take possession of his mind - & I shall

he very much changed in his
opinion -

I have a very good affectionate
private letter from Talbot -

I should much like to know what
Mr G. wrote you - Have you answered -

Yours very affly
C. P. M. Sharn -